

FOCUS

October 2007

Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County

UUCDC is a liberal religious community where young and old, partnered and single, gay and straight, skeptic and believer, people diverse in background and race, come together to build a better world for ourselves, our children and the larger community. We invite those who share these values to join us for Sunday services and for events listed in this newsletter.

145 W. Rose Tree Road
Media, PA 19063
(610) 566-4853
www.uucdc.org

E-mail:

churchoffice@uucdc.org

**Sunday Services,
Nursery Care &
Church School**
(PreSchool - 8th)
10:30 a.m. Sept.-June

**Coming of Age &
High School Youth**
6 p.m. Sundays



FROM THE MINISTER

On a recent visit to our area, a friend of mine who works on the UUA staff in Boston gave me a record of UUCDC's reported membership levels over the years. It was fascinating to see the ebb and flow of membership, both in our adult community and in the children registered for Religious Education.

Time and again, this congregation has grown to a membership of 280 or so, then shrunk back to anywhere between 225 and 250 members. The high-water mark came in 2000, when we reported 284 members and 106 children enrolled in Religious Education. Now we have 274 members on our rolls (and several folks have let me know that they want to join the church this fall).

So, here we are, poised just below that same "ceiling" that has vexed us throughout our history.

"Growth" is a scary word to some people. Some fear that the church they joined has changed so much, they can no longer call it home. Some worry about losing close personal relationships in the congregation and with the minister. Some are concerned that they won't have an effective voice in the direction the church is taking.

It is a natural human trait to resist change, and some, it seems, naturally resist it harder than others!

When I think about the growth of UUCDC, I don't think in terms of numbers of members, and I am adamantly opposed to "growth for growth's sake."

(Continued on page 2)

Speakers for October Sunday Services

October 7: Rev. Kathleen Bortner

October 14: Rev. Peter Friedrichs. *This is Association Sunday, when all UU congregations are asked to recognize and support, both in spirit and financially, the national work of the Unitarian Universalist Association.*

October 21: Rev. Peter Friedrichs and Jean Campbell, Director of Religious Education. *Intergenerational Worship.*

October 28: Rev. Peter Friedrichs

Who's Who

Staff

Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs,
Minister

Jean Campbell,
Director of Religious
Education

Beth Youse,
Music Director

Rina Jurceka,
Administrator

Liz Kievit
Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees

Jody Malloy,
President

Mark Bernstein,
Vice President

Lowell Young,
Treasurer

Julie Chuplis,
Secretary

Donna Harris

Katy Lynn

Mike Mitchell

Bruce Wyman

From the Minister

(Continued from page 1)

I think instead about the improved quality and variety of programs that we can offer as we grow. I think about the increased number of people we can serve, both within our church and in the larger community, with the additional resources at our disposal. And I think about how much more effective we can be in delivering our own particular brand of "good news" to the world.

UUCDC is in something of an "in-between" time, a period of transition.

Like a teenager who is rapidly outgrowing his clothes, and not quite sure how to use his gangly arms and legs, we are growing into our mature selves.

We are starting new programs and making commitments that have us all stretched pretty thin. It seems as if everyone is volunteering to lead multiple initiatives, and that our resources (both human and financial) aren't quite sufficient to keep up. Our building is bursting at the seams, especially on Sundays, when the R.E. program spills out into the lobby and cars are parked on nearly every inch of grass.

The good news is that we are doing exactly what we need to do to move through this stage and on to an even brighter future.

New staff positions have been established to support our programming and membership growth. The Board is changing the way the church is governed, by implementing a system that authorizes decisions to be made by the people responsible for putting those decisions into effect. The Mission Covenant Task Force is leading the congregation in a process to help us clarify, define and articulate our mission, the reason we exist as a church.

Soon, a group will begin to develop a long-range strategic plan to make sure we are taking appropriate steps to ensure that we can fulfill the mission.

And while all this is going on internally, we are reaching out beyond our doors to support those who are in need in our wider community, most notably with our participation in the Interfaith Hospitality Network. (See article on page 5.)

We here at UUCDC today are the beneficiaries of seeds that were sown long ago. Through the vision and commitment of our founding members, the tree of liberal religion was planted here in Delaware County more than 50 years ago, and that tree is bearing fruit right before our very eyes. We are their vision made real. As we move forward, our task is to cultivate and nurture this gift so that it continues to grow and thrive, and to live into a future where we can offer our bounty to an ever-widening circle.

Peace,

Peter

FOCUS INFO:

Editors:

Bette Austin
& Neil Goldstein

Production:

Rina Jurceka

The November deadline
is **Oct. 15.**

Please send your text
via email to:

Focus@uucdc.org

or put it in the Focus
box, in the church office.

Focus Folding, 10 a.m.
Oct. 26. Come help!

BOARD PERSPECTIVES: TIME TO MATCH TIME WITH VALUES

From the President/Jody Malloy

O.K., I admit it. I over-schedule myself. I always have more on my "to do" list for the day than I could ever accomplish. However, I don't think I'm alone, in fact, I would bet that most of us feel this way about our time.

Shortly after I finished college and joined the working world, I was given advice on how to approach this dilemma at a one-day training session about how to use a day planner. Yes, a whole day's training on how to write a to-do list, conducted by a managing partner in the firm. Why? Because it wasn't just about crossing items off the list, it was about being intentional in what you chose to do that day. What we learned was: Determine what you value. Based on your values, determine your long- and short-range goals. Then make sure that you are spending your time, each day and every day, on what is important to you, so that when you look back at your day, week, or year, you have spent the most time on what you believe to be most important. The concept isn't rocket science, but it is very powerful, and very effective--even for just remembering birthday cards. After all, family is what usually ends up on top of the list of what we value.

Another philosophy on time that has had a big impact on me is this concept: It's not that we don't have time to do something, it's that we don't MAKE time for it. What we do with our time is a choice that we make. It's not a passive condition, so we should take ownership for the choice that we made by phrasing it this way: "I didn't do that because I chose not to make time to do that." I find it enlightening and empowering to speak these words, because I know I can make a choice to change this in the future, if I so desire.

Recently, I've been reading and thinking about time from the perspective of the spiritual practice of mindfulness. Mindfulness stresses the importance of being truly aware of the present moment, disciplining our constantly wandering minds to pay attention to what is happening here and now. I like that idea, but it certainly clashes with the concept of multi-tasking, a skill I had been aspiring to master over the years because it seemed like the perfect way to get through my to-do list.

The question running through my mind lately is: Multi-tasking to what sacrifice? I can try to cook dinner, help the kids with their homework, and write my FOCUS article at the same time. But am I really paying attention to anything? What am I missing by not being present? As you can guess, either my dinner is overcooked, or my kids are frustrated that I'm not really paying attention to them, or I have not done my best work for the church. And, always, I feel stressed and agitated because I know that nothing is getting done well.

There is a lot going on at UUCDC this year. We have many options and requests for our time--just from church activities, not to mention all those demands on our time from outside the church. I think it will benefit all of us to take a step back and be intentional about our time. To plan what we spend our time on, so that it matches our values. Once we have made that choice, we should allow ourselves to be truly present and fully participate in the task at hand. Then, at the end of the day, and week, and year, we'll feel that we have put the gift of time to good use, rather than being used up by it.

Yours in Faith,
Jody

Association Sunday October 14, 2007

UUCDC will celebrate its connections with other UU congregations and with the Unitarian Universalist Association. A special collection will be taken to support the work of our Association for the benefit of our church and the wider world.

Notes From the Board

Two Employees Join UUCDC Staff

The biggest news at the moment is that the Board approved the contracts of two new employees. Jack Schaffer, our new sexton, comes to us with previous experience at another congregation. Liz Kievit has been hired in the newly-created position of administrative assistant. She will be working with Administrator Rina Jurceka and Jean Campbell, director of Religious Education as well as manning the office on most Sunday mornings. (See Welcome article on page 12.)

Please say hello to both of these new staff members when you see them. The Personnel Committee also has written a new job description for the position of coordinator of volunteers.

Volunteer positions continue to be filled as well:

Skip Sealaus has agreed to chair our upcoming Auction and Jane Sealaus is now our Nominating Committee chair. If you are interested in being more active in our church community, there are still volunteer positions open. Contact Jody Malloy or other members of the Board for more information.

One of our most important and challenging volunteer positions is Property Committee chair. Bob McClennen has served in that position for a long time and is going to step down at the end of the church year. This position is extremely important for the well-being of both our property and our congregation. Bob has asked the Board to consider making this a paid position. The Board is taking up the request and will investigate further.

As part of our Board charge this year, it was

Committees in the Spotlight

The Coordinating Council held its annual Committee Fair on Sept. 23 after the Sunday service. Although it competed for attention with a variety of activities (this is one busy church!), many people participated.

Newcomers as well as those who have been around a while were able to get information on some of the activities and committees at UUCDC.

agreed to start developing long-range strategic plans for UUCDC. If these plans are in place, the church will be able to apply for Chalice Lighter grants from the UUA. These plans also will help the Board understand how to focus the policy board when writing end statements and policies. The Board has agreed to start work on reviewing UUCDC's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (or SWOTs) as part of its agenda. It will begin a review of strengths at the next meeting.

Thanks to these UUCDC's dedicated volunteers:

--Susan Eidson for covering the office during the month of July and for adding the dates from the June calendaring meeting to the online calendar.

--the Personnel Committee for its prompt hiring of new staff, including the sexton, and administrative assistant and for writing two new job descriptions for these positions and for that of the Volunteer Talent Coordinator.

--the Worship Associates, who coordinated and led Sunday services this summer. At least one person commented that the services this past summer "were the best ever!"

--the YUCKIs for moving the desk from the nursery to the church office to create office space for the administrative assistant.

Although already thanked, another thank-you goes to all those who worked so hard to make the Lounge a comfortable and inviting space.

Katy Lynn

They could also sign up to participate.

Many thanks are due to those who helped with set-up or with clean-up afterward.

The council is considering holding a similar event in a few months to provide even more information. Look for news of that soon.

Mark Bernstein

UUCDC Takes a Giant Step— Housing Homeless Families Here

Circle October 21. It's a historic date.

That will be the day when UUCDC embarks on its first week as host congregation for the Delaware County Chapter of the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Starting Sunday evening until the following Sunday morning, one week later, host congregations provide sleeping quarters and three meals each day for homeless families admitted to the program.

Guests spend evenings at the church, having a hot dinner with a volunteer host family, and then stay the night, when two overnight hosts (a man and a woman) will be available in case of an emergency. A continental breakfast and food for a bag lunch are also provided by church members each day. Weeks are rotated among the host congregations in the network. UUCDC is one of at least local churches committed to the program.

UUCDC is scheduled to host five weeks throughout the year: October 21-28; December 2-9; March 16-23; April 27-May 4; June 22-29. Needed for each of these weeks are:

--Families willing to provide hot dinners and supplies for breakfast and lunch.

--Families willing to host dinner in the evenings and provide overnight coverage. (Overnight hosts will be provided with air beds and are expected to

sleep overnight as well.)

--Sustained and enthusiastic volunteer efforts.

--Donations of perishables for each week we are hosts.

--One-time donations of items required to get set up for this service. (Donation lists will appear in the Order of Service each week.)

Our neighbor church, Reformation Lutheran Church, will act as a "supporting congregation" and will provide volunteer and donation resources, as well as overflow meeting space .

A training session is required for all hosts who will have contact with our guests. A session will be scheduled at UUCDC in October. A date will be announced as soon as it is available. Those who only provide donations and meals are not required to attend the training sessions. Those interested in helping as host or providing meals should contact one of the IHN coordinators for UUCDC. They are Mary Beth Hoffman (marybeth312@verizon.net) and Tiffany Hanulec (tiffany.hanulec@gmail.com).

Other churches listed so far as taking part are: Our Lady of Charity Catholic Church, Boothwyn; Union United Methodist, Rose Valley; St. Stephen's Episcopal, Clifton Heights; Christ Church Media (Episcopal); St. John the Evangelist -Episcopal, Essington.

RE-FLECTIONS

I went to the new Indian restaurant in Media recently. They serve a buffet at lunch time. I like Indian food, but I don't know much about it. The buffet table had a unique selection of good-looking food. The dishes were labeled, some with familiar ingredients, some with unfamiliar Indian names. It was difficult to decide what to eat, because it all looked so delicious.

I finally made my decision, based on how the dish looked and how much I understood the label. As I considered the condiments, I was slightly overwhelmed and decided not to take any. Then I realized I could ask the server for a recommendation. He told me what sauce to use and spooned some into a bowl for me. Ah!

I was pleased with the meal. Maybe next time I will feel more confident in making my choices.

I began to wonder if one makes decisions about Religious Education in the same way I made my food selection in the Indian restaurant. Based on my pondering, I have drawn some parallels on this idea:

--Some folks have experience with R.E. in a UU church, some don't. Therefore, folks will come in

knowing more than others about the program. Comfort levels will vary.

--A person's experiences will influence the decision they make to sample and participate.

--We might not know exactly what we are putting on our plate; the results might be pleasing or disastrous.

--Comprehension of the language is definitely varied. Some understand the UU acronyms and culture, some never experienced them before.

--We all are influenced by our first impression.

--When a person is new to a place and asks an experienced person for advice or information, that information is often what sticks and becomes that person's truth.

I could continue coming up with parallels and then lots of questions for you, but what I would like most is to have a conversation with you about why we "serve" Religious Education here at UUCDC and what "dishes" you would like to see and sample.

Jean

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday School

First, a couple of important R.E. announcements:

At this writing, we are still in need of Sunday School teachers. To meet the work-load commitment we made to the teachers who have signed up, we may occasionally cancel a class. If we do that, children from the class will be invited to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

Also: Parents, please be sure your children are registered with the Religious Education program.

R.E. Chapel starts off our Sunday mornings with singing, joys and sorrows, a story, a quiet moment, and an offering. When Chapel ends, the children go with their teachers to their meeting place.

Here is what our children are learning about this month:

Preschool: Unitarian Universalism.

Kindergarten: Principles of UUism.

1st & 2nd grades: The 1st UU Principle.

3rd grade: Stories and myths from the Greek and Hebrew traditions.

4th grade: Medicine and Unitarian Universalism, and UUs who influenced the medical field.

5th grade: Old Testament stories.

6th grade: Reading and discussing Madeleine L'Engle's book *Many Waters*.

7th & 8th grade: Our Whole Lives (OWL), the UUA curriculum on human sexuality.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

R.E. Youth Programs

Middle School group. We are starting the second year of our Middle School Youth Activities group for sixth-to-eighth graders.

Our group, which meets on the second Saturday of each month, is an opportunity for the young people to connect with each other, play games, watch films, take hikes and trips, and just have fun together. We will again participate in special events with other area UU middle schoolers – possibly snow tubing or other fun stuff.

On **Saturday, Oct. 13**, the program will begin at 5 p.m. with a Pizza Twister party and will include planning the rest of the year's activities. Bring a friend. Bring ideas !

The members of our Middle School Program Team are Irene Friedrichs, Jason Koelewyn and Jody Malloy.

Coming of Age group. The ninth graders were scheduled to begin their year with a Wizard of Oz retreat Sept. 29 and 30. They'll meet every Sunday from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

On **Sunday, Oct. 28**, at 6:30 p.m., *Grease* is the word!

Grease, as in the 1978 movie musical (yes, we're talking John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.). It's the monthly Coming of Age Movie.

Those films about exploring the world you're growing up in, and the people you do it with. This flick shows how easy it is to lose yourself in the quest for popularity. That's what ultimately makes this a good Coming of Age movie, because the hero loses, for a change, which more accurately reflects teen life.

So come out and join us! Bring the kids! Dress in '50s style costumes! (Practice for Halloween!) Enjoy free snacks and beverages! The movie is rated PG.

YUCKIs. The high school group had a busy September, with a sleepover on In-gathering weekend, a visit to the Renaissance Faire, and Fall Retreat to Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

October's activities include a District Youth Conference in Baltimore, **Oct. 5 to 7**, a Fund Raising Lunch on **Sunday, Oct. 21**, and providing the Haunted House for the Family Halloween Party, **Oct. 27**.

YUCKIs is open to all people ages 14 through senior year of high school. Meetings are on Sundays, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

The Youth Advisor Team members are Jennifer Haines, Katie Koelewyn, Andrew Snyder and Mark Yerger, with Michael Broggy and Josie Yaller as alternates.

R.E. Is Not Just for Kids

The Adult Religious Education Team will be organizing courses and events throughout the year for those who wish to learn and share more with others about our faith, our congregation, and being a person of liberal faith. If you have ideas for programming, please contact Loretta Orndorff, Adult Religious Education Team leader. Here are various opportunities to participate in Adult Religious Education at UUCDC:

Sunday Morning Forums: Join us Sunday mornings at 9 for a facilitated discussion. Forums last one hour, and are strictly drop-in events.

Topics for October:

Oct. 7 – It Matters What We Believe.

Oct. 14 – Forgiveness.

Oct. 21 – Tolerance.

Oct. 28 – Inclusiveness.

Nov. 4 – Prayer.

The Forum is a place to share our ideas with others, not to find the right answer. We usually find a range of answers, and that is what makes the Forums so interesting.

A Chosen Faith: Facilitated by the Rev. Peter Friedrichs, this three-session workshop will explore the origins, meaning and values of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Join us at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 31, Nov. 7 and Nov 14. Our discussions will be guided by the book *A Chosen Faith*. To register for the workshop and to buy the book (\$15), contact Jean Campbell, 610-566-4853 or dre@uucdc.org.

(Continued on page 13)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Committee Plans Full Year of Projects, Forums, Letter Writing

The Social Justice Committee got a running start on this church year by holding a retreat in June. From this meeting, we got a renewed sense of commitment to focus and communicate our vision and process to the congregation, and to support on-going projects and exciting new ideas.

We are working on a new vision statement, a Share-the-Collection Plate proposal to take to the Board, and on strengthening our relationship with other local

churches that share our vision.

This year we plan to support the Interfaith Hospitality Network, the Task Force on Hunger, the Adopt-A-Family program at Christmas, and the Concerts for the Community.

We also hope to increase our involvement in advocacy by holding forums on issues such as gun violence, and attending rallies, such as the October 7 rally to protest China's involvement in Darfur, and by letter-writing campaigns

when we find important issues.

We are looking for people who support these ideas, or who have other ideas about ways to support Social Justice at UUCDC.

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 2, 7:15 p. m.

Patti Fiske

Oct. 14 Gun Violence Forum: What the Suburbs Can Do

Four shootings in South Philadelphia yesterday left six people wounded in less than five hours.

– Philadelphia Inquirer, Sept. 13

News items such as the one above are sadly familiar as the gun violence that wracks nearby communities continues unabated. Unfortunately, most of our public leaders have done little to address the problem. But UUCDC people are doing something.

The church's Gun Violence Task Force will sponsor a community forum titled "The Gun Violence Epidemic -- Can the Suburbs Make a Difference?" at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 14, at the church.

The forum is intended to educate us about what is being done on three fronts of this problem, and what we can do as individuals and a congregation to support those efforts. The fact remains that more than 80% of murders in Philadelphia involve handguns,

and that many of the firearms found their way to the illegal street market after being purchased in bulk from licensed gun dealers in surrounding communities.

The forum will address:

Public policy. It is well known that our state lags behind many others in controlling the sale and possession of handguns. Diane Edbril, executive director of Cease Fire PA, will speak on this issue. Cease Fire PA is a statewide organization that has been lobbying for sensible gun laws. Diane will talk about the progress of proposed legislation and how we can support it.

Public safety. The role of local police departments in addressing the gun-violence issue is critical. Michael Chitwood, superintendent of the Upper Darby Police Department, will discuss what his agency has done in this regard. His department is a member organization of Pennsylvanians

Against Handgun Trafficking (PATH), and under his leadership is taking an active roll in addressing the issue.

Social support. A third dimension of the problem relates to the conditions that foster gun violence. We are arranging for a speaker on that topic.

The Gun Violence Task Force has been working since earlier this year to both raise awareness of the issue within our congregation and offer opportunities for taking positive action. A May letter-writing campaign to support "one handgun per month" (HB22) generated 50 letters to local representatives. But there is more we can do to keep the pressure on our public officials to act.

Attend the forum on Oct. 14 to find out more. Joe Miller

Save Darfur Coalition Plans Oct. 7 Protest Against China's Darfur Connection

On Sunday, Oct. 7, UUCDC members will have a major opportunity to continue their commitment to ending the Darfur genocide. They can protest China's involvement in Darfur by participating in a rally from 2 to 4 p. m. at the Independence Hall Visitors Center at Fifth and Market Streets in Philadelphia.

The rally comes in response to a call from the Save Darfur Coalition to join with groups in other cities both to support the U.S. Olympic Torch Relay and urge China to help protect Darfur.

The rally idea comes from a group called the Olympic Dream for Darfur, which is organizing an international Olympic Torch Relay from Darfur to Beijing, where

the Summer Olympics will be held next year. The countries in the relay include sites of previous genocides and mass atrocities. The goal is to urge China to use its influence with the Sudan government and the U.N. Security Council to allow a full security force on the ground in Darfur to protect civilians and humanitarian workers.

Since the 1990s, Sudan and China have traded heavily, with Khartoum selling two-thirds of its oil exports to Beijing. Because China also sells arms to Sudan, it has the ability to influence that government's involvement in the Darfur conflict, in which more than 200,000 civilians have been killed and more than two million

villagers have been uprooted from their homes since 2003.

With the Olympics focusing world attention on China's prestige, activists hope that international pressure will prompt the country to work to change Sudan's behavior.

In April, many church members and friends attended a Darfur program at Congregation Beth Israel in Middletown.

Regina Pound

Temple Student Receives UUCDC Scholarship

Larif K. Hamm, a Temple University student, received a \$1,000 "follow-up" scholarship award from UUCDC's Concerts for the Community, during the Sunday Service September 16. As chair of the Social Justice Committee, Patti Fiske, made the presentation.

Hamm was the recipient of an initial UUCDC award presented at the Awards dinner of NAACP's Chester Branch in April, 2006.

In 2005 UUCDC's Social Justice Committee initiated participation in the NAACP Scholarship program. Since then, the money raised through Concerts for the Community, combined with generous gifts from benefactors, has provided a yearly \$1,000 scholarship for an outstanding youth from Chester. Last year the Social Justice Committee voted to provide an annual "follow-up" award to re-

ipients, to help them as they continue their undergraduate education. Hamm is the first to benefit from this decision.

Debbie Snow, former UUCDC music director, initiated Concerts for the Community. Her aim was to present diverse musical entertainment, largely using church members, and using the proceeds from events to support community causes. The initial outreach went to the Center for Support of Child Advocacy in Philadelphia.

Among the musical fund-raisers presented in the past have been: "The Marriage of Figaro," "Divas a La Carte," "Free to Be You and Me," and, in 2006, "It's a Grand Night for Singing," a musical review.

We welcome and urge you to step forward to stage an event or contribute to Concerts for the

Community Fund. Contact Bob Beaney. Your support is critical to this worthy endeavor. There are few finer investments than ones that can be made in support of deserving young people, who are depending upon us to help them become the wise and caring future leaders of our communities and of our world.

Bob Beaney

The Auction Cometh!

Yes ! The Fall 2007 Church Auction is just around the corner: Saturday, October 20.

Bring your friend, bring your relatives, bring anyone and everyone!

This is a wonderful, fun evening and a great opportunity to spend time with other members of the UUCDC community. This is also an important fund-raiser for our church. Our success depends on your support and participation. Come and enjoy our world-class, veteran auctioneers, Brian Campbell and Mark Bernstein. It is not possible NOT to have a great time--as you vie for some gourmet dinner, four nights of responsible childcare, a weekend in a lovely seashore house, a beautiful paint-

ing or photograph that would look terrific on a certain wall, and, of course, to support the best cause ever--UUCDC!

What Can You Contribute?

Dinners, a game night, vacation home weeks and week ends, home-baked goodies (brownies, carrot cakes, apple pies), musical performances, and services such as tax preparation, simple wills, childcare, gift-wrapping and pet-minding are high on many lists. Everyone has something to offer.

Give some serious thought to what you have to offer and stop by the auction table after the Sun-

day service and fill out a contribution form. You can also call Skip Seelaus (evenings: 610-565-0331).

How Can You Help?

Running the auction requires many hands and the Auction Committee welcomes your help. It needs help with poster creation, mailings, donation collection, catalog creation, computer data entry, hospitality, setup and cleanup. It's a long list. Help shorten it, make it disappear. Stop by and sign up at the auction table after Sunday service in the next few weeks.

**Mark Your Calendar--
SATURDAY, OCTOBER
20!!**

Back to School, Back Home at RTDS

Every autumn brings the excitement and the anxiety of a new school year.

Last year at this time, our household was full of much more anxiety than excitement as Noah started at Rose Tree Day School. A new school and new people can cause a great amount of stress on a 3-year-old, no denying it. I don't know whom my husband had to console more, our son or me, as our daily school drop-offs were traumatic and heart-wrenching.

Fast-forward to this year, and what an amazing difference there

is.

Instead of this unknown place with unknown people, Noah has returned to a place where he feels *safe*, where he can be himself, thrive and *learn!*

All of the teachers, children and parents are what make the difference. This year, instead of going back to school, Noah is going back ... home.

The same can be said for us, as his parents. This year, we love seeing familiar faces and catching up with the children and parents

we've grown to know over the past year. And we smile a little bit wider when we see new faces. For all we know, they can be going through some anxiety or excitement at their home too.

Our hope is that RTDS will become the special place for them that it has become for our family.

Lisa Grieco

RTDS Board Member – Parent Representative

ARTS, BOOKS & MUSIC

Get Ready for "It's Entertainment" Oct. 13

Tickets to the third annual production of "It's Entertainment" are available on Sundays in the lobby after the service.

The variety show featuring UUCDC performers starts at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, in Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5 a per-

son, and organizers ask that each family attending bring a finger food for the Share a Snack table. Suggestions: crackers, cheese, vegetables, fruit, candy, cookies, cupcakes.

Beverages may also be shared. Note that adult beverages are the

responsibility of family adults and will not be on the share table.

Producer-director Dot Wyman says that all profits will go to the show's sponsor, the UUCDC Arts Council, and will benefit the church.

"Slaughter-House Five" for Book Club Oct. 26

Listen: Billy Pilgrim has come unstuck in time.

Yes, the UUCDC Book Club will be reading Kurt Vonnegut's classic anti-war novel, *Slaughter-House Five, or, The Children's Crusade*, for its October meeting and discussion.

Billy Pilgrim has been kidnapped by aliens who reveal to him that all time is always pre-

sent. He returns to Dresden, Germany, during WWII (among other times and places). Dresden was a non-industrial city that was wiped out by fire bombing for no apparent military reason; 100,000 civilians were killed.

Join Billy as he travels to other parts of his life, and join us in the Youth Room at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 26, for a thought-provoking and fun discussion.

Future titles we will read include *Self-Made Man* by Norah Vincent. If you have questions about our club, you may speak to Barb Wray, Julie Chuplis, Bryan Boosz or Nancy Henderson.

Bryan Boosz

Three Unforgettable Gifts

- *A gift to the church:* serving as a representative of our church community.
- *A gift to a young person:* acting as friend and guide as a ninth grader crosses the threshold from childhood to youth, and embarks on a journey toward adulthood.
- *A gift to yourself:* an opportunity to get to know our church young people and to experience personal challenge and spiritual growth.

You can give all those gifts by becoming a mentor in the church's Coming of Age Program

We are looking for adults age 26 and above for the 2007-08 program. We seek four women and six or seven men -- enough prospective mentors to give the young people a choice of whom they are matched with.

Please take the first step of offering your help if you feel you would accept a mentorship position if it is offered later. A Matchmaking & Profile-

Swapping Dinner will be held in November. If you're accepted, you'd meet with your young person about once a month for the rest of the church year.

Please contact Jean Campbell, Marge Caton or Jean Lenke if you're interested. They'll get you a calendar of commitments, talk with you about the ninth graders involved, and help you decide if this program is right for you.

Yo UUCDCERS!

Help Jennifer Haines Take a (Long, Important) Hike

You might get tired just thinking about walking 10 miles and climbing 1,000 stairs. But Jennifer Haines wants to do all that work, for several reasons. And she'd like your help.

The walking and climbing are part of the Step Up to Fight Diabetes event on Oct. 20 in Philadelphia. To participate, UUCDC member Jennifer must reach a fundraising goal of \$1,000.

Jennifer asks that congregation members and friends contribute what they can to help her reach the goal.

She explains that she has several health challenges, including "nearly every known risk factor for being one of the one in three Americans to develop diabetes in my lifetime." She adds that she has four children and a husband who need her.

You can contribute through her web page at: http://main.diabetes.org/site/TR/StepUp/StepUp105118010?px=3863951&pg=personal&fr_id=4590. Or you can contact her at Jenuofroc@aol.com for other ways to contribute.

How to Aid Penn State UU Activities

Attention, parents of Penn State students: The Campus Ministry Committee of the UU Fellowship of Centre County in State College (uufcc.com) wants to compile a list of UU students at the university. A couple times per semester, the committee will invite them to participate in UU activities on campus and at the fellowship.

The committee's John Schmidt asks that you send the e-mail address and name of your student to him at jps28@verizon.net or vicepres@uufcc.com.

Gather 'Round, Ghosts, Spidermen-- The Hallowe'en Party Is Coming !

Join the fun at UUCDC's annual Hallowe'en Party and Potluck Buffet, Saturday, October 27, 6-to 9 p.m.

Come in costume or as you are. But, be sure to bring one or two items for the buffet: entree, salad, side dish, dessert, or beverage. There will be activities for all ages, including games, a movie, and even a haunted house.

Volunteers are needed for planning, set-up, and clean-up. Contact representatives of Family and Friends Group: Mary Schuler (maryschuler@comcast.net) or Michele Yerger (mcyerger@comcast.net) to volunteer or for more information.

UUCDC Welcomes Two New Staff Members

"Busy" is a word written large in the lives of UUCDC's two new staff members: Liz (Elizabeth) Kievit, administrative assistant, and Jack Schaffer, sexton.

Liz, of Glen Mills, worked full-time in her husband's insurance agency. However, things got a little slack in the spring, so she applied for the position of UUCDC's administrative assistant.

She has an associate degree in applied science from County College of Morris, Morristown, NJ, and before working for her husband, held a number of positions as legal secretary, administrative assistant to sales managers, directors, vice presidents and personnel recruiters of several New Jersey companies.

She has four children: a son, a freshman at Penn State University; another son, a high school senior; a daughter, a freshman in high school; and a second daughter in sixth grade. (We're already breathless).

As UUCDC's administrative assistant, she will work twelve hours during the week, and on Sunday from 9 a. m. to 12 p. m. She will be assisting Rina Jurceka, administrator, and Jean Campbell, director, Religious Education.

Jack, who lives in Swarthmore and retired eight years ago, worked for Wesco Distribution, an electrical supply company, for 39 years, the last 23 years as warehouse manager. Jack spent the first three years of retirement "doing things" his wife, Jean, of 48 years, wanted him to do. Having done those, he decided he wasn't busy enough.

He then worked as sexton for five years for the Episcopal Church of the Atonement in Morton. When the church closed, what was he going to do to keep, well, busy? Happily, he saw UUCDC's ad, and is now sexton. He works two days a week, Mondays and Thursdays, five hours each day. Busy enough, Jack?

(Continued on page 13)

IN OUR BACK YARD

Inspiration, Tools and Racial Justice: Conference in Va. on Oct. 27

All are invited to a day-long conference on Oct. 27 that will offer inspiration as well as practical tools for building a multicultural beloved community reflective of our nation.

“Building, Setting, Expanding the Welcome Table” aims to move UU congregations toward being anti-racist, anti-oppressive, welcoming and more diverse communities. The Joseph Priestley District sponsors this third annual racial justice conference, scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27, at the UU Congregation of Fairfax, Va.

Our congregation’s Sayre Dixon plans to go and would like to hear from others who are interested, possibly to carpool. Call her at 610-565-6855.

The featured speaker will be Sherrilyn Ifill, a law professor at the University of Maryland.

Taquiena Boston of the Identity Based Ministry Department of the Unitarian Universalist Association will lead a workshop. Dr. Mark Hicks will discuss the curriculum “Building the World We Dream About.” And the Rev. Bill Gardiner will present a history of anti-racism work in the UUA.

Adult UUCDC members will pay a discounted price of \$28 for the day, including lunch, dinner and a comedy show. (That reflects the 20 percent discount we get because we’re a Full Fair Share Congregation.) Youths and young adults pay an already discounted \$17.

Early-registration deadline is Oct. 15. A \$10 late fee will be assessed after that date. Registration is closed after Oct. 23. The UU Congregation of Fairfax is at 2709 Hunter Mill Rd. in Oakton, Va.

Visit the JPD website, www.jpduua.org, for full details as well as a registration form.

ChiWalking: A special free informational session on ChiWalking (as in Tai Chi) will be offered on Sept. 30 after church. The Chi Walking program is a new approach to creating health, fitness and well-being through the activity of walking. ChiWalking is an inspirational, mind-body program that will get you up and out, and moving toward better health. For more information, check out www.chiwalking.com. A multi-session course will be offered on Tuesdays, Oct. 9 through 30, by Craig Streitell, the area’s only certified ChiWalking instructor. There will be a fee of \$100 for these classes.

The Road to Boston: Four Prophets Who Shaped UUism. Come join our exploration of the thoughts and contributions of four UU thinkers: William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker and James Luther Adams.

Rick Gross leads this seminar, which will help adults prepare for our springtime trip to Boston, home of the Unitarian Universalist Association (and Walden Pond).

References to be used in the seminar: *Three Prophets of Religious Liberalism: Channing, Emerson, Parker* and *An Examined Faith: Social Context and Religious Commitment*.

The seminar will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3, in the Lounge. Please bring your own lunch.

The Adult Religious Education Team meets monthly to plan substantive and fun programming that nurtures the minds, bodies and souls of the adults in our congregation. This programming is for people who are new to our faith, as well as for those who have been part of our faith community for many years.

Please stay tuned as our programming develops, and come join us!



Think Christmas for Nov. 17

Think beautiful, long-legged dancing girls

--the Rockettes! -- in Santa Claus costumes,

Think adorable animals --Bambi, lion cubs, penguins,

dancing their hearts out,

Think, lovely seasonal music that sends you out humming,

Think a moving and beautiful Nativity scene,

Think a fun bus ride with other UUCCers to New York, New York!

Sunday, October 7, is the last date to sign up and pay for your ticket.

All tickets must be paid for by that date. No refunds after that date.

The cost is \$95 per person. It includes round-trip fare, ticket for Radio City

Music Hall, bus driver's tip and snacks to fortify you on the trip to New York

and on the return as you cherish your day's memories.

The bus will leave the UUCDC parking lot PROMPTLY at 8 a.m.

and will return at 7 p. m. Nov. 17

Questions? More info? Call Dot Magargal (610-446-7356).



Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County

145 W. Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063

Focus

October 2007

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Calendar

October 2007*

Date	Name of Event	Time			
10/1	Voice Lesson Rental	8:30 AM	10/9	Ramadan	5:30 PM
	Ramadan	5:30 PM		Yoga	5:45 PM
	RE Council	7:15 PM		Chi Walking	7:00 PM
	MCC	7:30 PM		DBSA	7:00 PM
	Mission Committee	7:30 PM		IHN Training	7:00 PM
				Adult RE	7:30 PM
10/2	Photo Directory	2:00 PM	10/10	Adult RE	12:00 PM
	Ramadan	5:30 PM		Ramadan	5:30 PM
	yoga	5:45 PM		Entertainment Rehearsal	7:00 PM
	Social Justice Committee	7:15 PM		MCC Rehearsal	7:00 PM
	Adult RE	7:30 PM			
10/3	Photo Directory	2:00 PM	10/11	Ramadan	5:30 PM
	Board	7:15 PM		Entertainment Rehearsal	6:00 PM
	Adult RE	7:30 PM		Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 PM
	Ramadan	9:00 PM		SGM	7:00 PM
				Talk/Listen Class	7:00 PM
10/4	Ramadan	5:30 PM	10/12	Photo Directory	2:00 PM
	SGM	6:00 PM		Entertainment Rehearsal	6:30 PM
	Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 PM			
	Talk/Listen Class	7:00 PM	10/13	Photo Directory	9:00 AM
10/5	Ramadan	5:30 PM		MS Youth Activity	5:00 PM
				Entertainment: Cabaret	6:30 PM
10/6	Ramadan	5:30 PM	10/14	Adult RE Forum	9:00 AM
				Worship & Religious Education	10:30 AM
10/7	Adult RE Forum	9:00 AM		Sermon Discussion	11:45 AM
	Worship & Religious Education	10:30 AM		Thespis	2:00 PM
	Visitor Coffee	11:30 AM		Independent Catholics	5:00 PM
	Sermon Discussion	11:45 AM		COA	6:00 PM
	Entertainment Rehearsal	12:30 PM		Social Justice Forum Set Up	6:30 PM
	Thespis	2:00 PM		Gun Violence Community Forum	7:00 PM
	Independent Catholics	5:00 PM	10/15	Voice Lesson Rental	8:30 AM
	Ramadan	5:30 PM		DRE-AD	7:00 PM
	YUCKI	6:00 PM		RTDS Board	7:00 PM
				Mission Committee	7:30 PM
10/8	Voice Lesson Rental	8:30 AM	10/16	Yoga	5:45 PM
	Ramadan	5:30 PM			
	RTDS Meet & Greet	7:00 PM			
	Board of Trustees	7:15 PM			

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*Printed September 25, 2007

October 2007

Chi Walking	7:00 PM	10/26 Interfaith Hospitality Hosting	12:00 AM
Adult RE	7:30 PM	Book Group	7:30 PM
10/17 Adult RE	12:00 PM	10/27 Interfaith Hospitality Hosting	12:00 AM
MCC Rehearsal	7:00 PM	Memorial Garden Work Party	9:00 AM
Membership Council	7:00 PM	COA Mentor Training	10:00 AM
10/18 Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 PM	Interweave/ JPD	10:00 AM
Parent Support Group	7:00 PM	Madrassa	10:00 AM
Talk/Listen Class	7:00 PM	YUCKI Haunted House Set Up	2:00 PM
10/19 Auction Set Up		Halloween Party	5:30 PM
10/20 Auction		YUCKI Haunted House	5:30 PM
10/21 Interfaith Hospitality Hosting	12:00 AM	10/28 Interfaith Hospitality Hosting	12:00 AM
Adult RE Forum	9:00 AM	Adult RE Forum	9:00 AM
Worship & Religious Education	10:30 AM	Worship & Religious Education	10:30 AM
YUCKI Soup Lunch	11:30 AM	Sermon Discussion	11:45 AM
Sermon Discussion	11:45 AM	Thespis	2:00 PM
Adult Ed Planning	12:15 PM	Independent Catholics	5:00 PM
Personnel Committee	12:15 PM	COA Movie	6:00 PM
Thespis	2:00 PM	YUCKI	6:00 PM
COA	6:00 PM	10/29 Voice Lesson Rental	8:30 AM
Wedding	6:00 PM	Mission Committee	7:30 PM
10/22 Interfaith Hospitality Hosting	12:00 AM	10/30 Yoga	5:45 PM
Voice Lesson Rental	8:30 AM	Chi Walking	7:00 PM
Caring Committee	7:15 PM	Adult RE	7:30 PM
MCC	7:30 PM	10/31 RTDS Halloween Parade	10:00 AM
10/23 Interfaith Hospitality Hosting	12:00 AM	Adult RE	12:00 PM
Yoga	5:45 PM	MCC Rehearsal	8:15 PM
Chi Walking	7:00 PM		
Adult RE	7:30 PM		
10/24 Interfaith Hospitality Hosting	12:00 AM		
Adult RE	12:00 PM		
10/25 Interfaith Hospitality Hosting	12:00 AM		
Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 PM		
Talk/Listen Class	7:00 PM		